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Amendments to the claims:

MAY 22 2003

Please amend claims 1-9 as follows:

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1.-3. (Withdrawn)

4. (Currently Amended) A protein encoded by the a DNA according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of the following (a) through (e):

(a) a DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) a DNA comprising the coding region of the base sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1;

(c) a DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 which is modified by deletion and/or addition of one or more amino acid residues, and/or substitution with other amino acids, and functionally equivalent to the protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;

(d) a DNA hybridizing to the DNA comprising the base sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, and encoding a protein functionally equivalent to the protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(e) a DNA comprising a DNA according to any of (a) through (d) and a DNA encoding other peptide or polypeptide, encoding a fusion protein.

5.-9. (Withdrawn)

Please add new claims 10-11.

10. (New) A protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

11. (New) A protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, which is modified by deletion and/or addition of one or more amino acid residues, and/or substitution with other amino acids, and functionally equivalent to the protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.